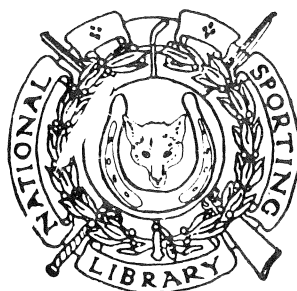


NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY

NEWS



LETTER

A Research Center for Turf and Field Sports,
their History and Social Significance

Middleburg, Virginia 22117

June, 1986

Judith Ozment, Librarian

No. 22

Racing Silks

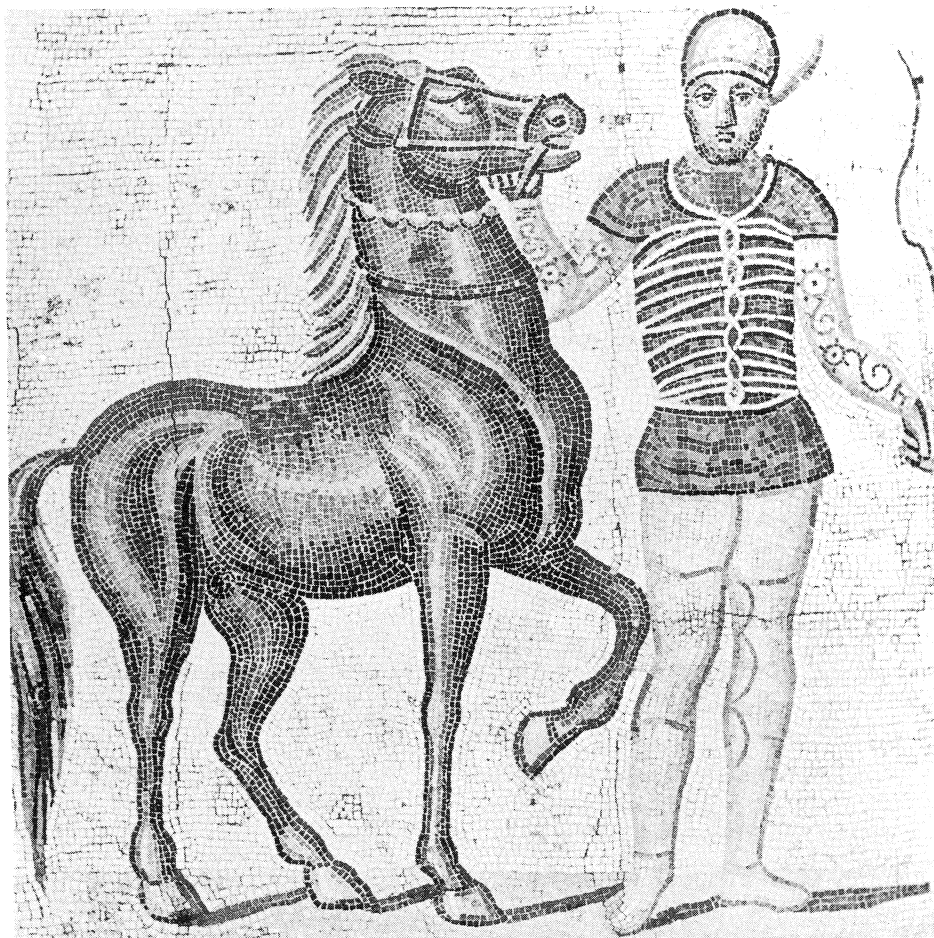
Frederick Burlew

The jockey, attired in his colorful silks when he enters the paddock, can take pride in the fact his costume is an integral part of racing tradition. Jockeys are to be saluted because in their brilliant and varied colored hues, they prevent racing from becoming a drab mechanical sport.

From earliest time, man has used color for identification purposes and quite early he introduced it into his sporting events, especially when he began to race horses.

In 624 B.C. the Greeks used color at their Olympiad. Bare-back riders wore colorful draped cloaks as they paraded into the arena. When the races started these were removed and all that remained were head bands of gold, silver and blue. And if that wasn't sufficient color, evidence is presented that the horses were also dyed.

According to *Kennets Roman Antiquities*, the various Emperors introduced color to the tunics and harnesses of their companies of charioteers - green, red, white, sky blue and golden yellow. Green was the favorite color of Caligula and Nero, and they both expressed it in devious ways. Caligula once had the horses and charioteers of the Blue Team poisoned to assure a Green victory. Nero wore a green toga to the Circus and had



Mosaic from the Nazionale delle Terme, Rome, of a charioteer in the green livery of the Prasina faction, to which Caligula was fervidly loyal. The racing garb shows reinforcement stitched over the rib cage, leather leggings and a crash helmet.

the entire floor strewn with green copper-oxide dust.

Extensive examination of the relics of other ancient civilization reveal representative color used also at their racing events.

The British, however, must be accredited with establishing the custom of outfitting the race rider in appropriate liv-
ery with color and design variances. This dress, quite similar to that worn today with modification, was established in the latter part of the 17th and early 18th centuries during the reigns of Charles II and Queen Anne. Although the chronicles record racing meets in 1114, individual colors are first mentioned in 1515, when Henry VIII occupied the throne. If color was used earlier, sufficient and supporting evidence is not recorded.

The colorful trappings of heraldry presented the British with possession of many designs which were adopted to their racing colors.

During the early 1700's, as the owners list increased, confusion resulted from the duplicity which arose. It became absolutely necessary to vary color and design for positive identification when the mounts became obscured in the meadows, hills and dales of the countryside, the courses of the day. This resulted in the famous Newmarket resolution of October 4, 1762 stating colors were to be annexed by the respective owners and worn by their riders. The resolution was as follows:—

“For the greater convenience of distinguishing the horses in running, and also for the prevention of disputes arising from not knowing the colours of each rider, the under-mentioned gentlemen have come to the resolution and agreement of having the colours annexed to the following names worn by their respective riders:—

H.R.H. the Duke of Cumberland.....	Purple
His grace the Duke of Grafton.....	Sky blue
His Grace the Duke of Devonshire.....	Straw Colour
His Grace the Duke of Northumberland.....	Yellow
His Grace the Duke of Kingston.....	Crimson
His Grace the Duke of Ancaster.....	Buff
His Grace the Duke of Bridgewater.....	Garret blue
The Most Noble the Marquis of Rockingham.....	Green
The Right Hon. the Earl of Waldegrave.....	

.....	Deep red
The Right Hon. the Earl of Orford.....	
.....	Purple and white
The Right Hon. the Earl of Gower.....	Blue
The Right Hon. Viscount Bolingbroke.....	Black
The Right Hon. Lord Grosvenor.....	Orange
Sir John Moore, Bart.	Darkest green
Sir Jas. Lowther, Bart.	Orange
Mr. R. Vernon.....	White
Hon. Mr. Greville ..	Brown trimmed with yellow
Mr. Jenison Shafto.....	Pink

“The Stewards therefore hope, in the name of the Jockey Club, that the above-named gentlemen will take care that the riders be provided with dresses accordingly.” Originally a black velvet cap, like that of a huntsman, was the only one used by the riders, and was more or less associated with the colours enumerated, but at a later period the cap was altered, varying in colour, and has continued so down to present date.

It does not appear, however, to have had much weight with the members of the Jockey Club themselves, for on the 10th February 1771 a further resolution was passed at a Jockey Club meeting held at the Star and Garter Tavern, Pall Mall, London, and adopted by the Noblemen and gentlemen who were present, with the following declarations of their colours:—

His Grace the Duke of Kingston	Crimson
His Grace the Duke of Ancaster ..	Very light buff
His Grace the Duke of Grafton	
.....	Dark blue, black cap
His Grace the Duke of Northumberland	
.....	Gold-colour, cap the same
The Most Noble the Marquis of Rockingham	
.....	Green, black cap
The Right Hon. Viscount Bolingbroke	Black
The Right Hon. Lord Carlisle	
.....	Scarlet and grey stripes, cap the same
The Right Hon. Lord Grosvenor	
.....	Orange, black cap
The Right Hon. Lord Farnham	Sky blue
The Right Hon. Lord Ossory	
.....	Pea-green, cap the same
Sir T. C. Bunbury, Bart.	
.....	Pink and white stripe, black cap
The Right Hon. C.J. Fox	
.....	Green and white stripe, cap the same
Mr. Thos. Foley	
.....	Green and white stripe, cap the same
Mr. Pigott.....	Pompadour, cap the same
Mr. P. Blake.....	Black and white, cap the same
Mr. C. Blake	Grey and white stripe
Mr. Burlton	Yellow, cap the same
Mr. Ogilvy	Harlequin
Mr. R. Vernon.....	White, black cap
Mr. P. Wentworth	White satin

From the above date the Riders' Colours began to be placed upon the Jockey Club record, and the growth of the list is interesting as showing the extent of the Turf's development down to modern dates. In 1762 we find 19 registrations; in 1862 no less than 590 names of owners who have declared their colours are on record. The resolution adopted by the members of the Jockey Club, it would seem, was by no means obligatory, for there are many persons whose Racing Colours, whether members or not, were never registered, and no public record of them exists.

Owing probably to a corresponding difficulty, painters as well as publishers have sometimes fallen into error both as to their representations and publications. Some few instances will explain. For example in a painting of *Eclipse*, by J. N. Sartorius, a small panel with a distant view of the old stand at Newmarket, the jockey, probably John Oakley, is represented in a blue jacket and black cap, instead of Colonel O'Kelly's colours, which were crimson and black cap. This famous horse, from the time he was purchased by Colonel O'Kelly from Mr. Wildman, was never out of the former's possession. *Diamond* is another example. In a print published in 1799, usually when found in good condition a beautiful example of the old colour-printing, the jockey appears in a light blue jacket, white cap, whereas the colours of Mr. Cookson, his owner, were at the time purple body, straw cap. Again, in the print published of *Antonio*, the declared winner of the disputed St. Leger in 1819, owned by Mr. J. Ferguson, the jockey, Thos. Nicholson, is represented in scarlet. This horse was sold the same year to Mr. J. Clifton for £1000, and should be associated with the proper colours of Mr. J. Ferguson, viz., blue, yellow stripe. It was not till 1823 that Mr. Ferguson changed his colours to scarlet, long after the horse had left his possession. *Dangerous*, winner of the Derby in 1833, in a print published at the same date, is represented with Chapple on his back in a scarlet jacket, black cap, whereas his owner Mr. Sadler's colours were white body, scarlet sleeves, black cap. *Elis*, winner of the St.

Leger in 1836, owned by the Earl of Lichfield, is represented with John B. Day in the saddle, in blue body, red sleeves, blue cap, instead of the proper colours, black body, red sleeves, black cap. *Cossack*, winner of the Derby in 1847, in a painting by F. C. Turner, has Sim Templeman on his back, dressed in scarlet body, orange sleeves and cap, instead of orange body and cap, scarlet sleeves.

These examples show that at all times considerable difficulty has been experienced, from one cause or another, in ascertaining the colors actually worn by the riders, as no effort seems ever to have been made to show, as far as possible, the changes and alterations which took place from time to time.

The American colonies adopted the British costuming of the jockey before the Revolution, but for the next hundred years it was almost an impossible task in getting owners to claim a particular set of racing colors, not that they weren't used, but because there was no single enforcement agency. Many attempts were made by the existing courses, personages and racing periodicals requesting owners to claim and submit their designs. The pleas were unsuccessful and met with a complacency, perhaps attributable to the American feeling of independence, and like in Britain earlier, duplication became rampant.

This was rectified by the formation of The Board of Control in 1891 and by its successor, The Jockey Club in 1894. This was the first American governing body requiring the registration of owner's colors, with penalties for violations.

For the last 90 years over 95% of the colors used on North American racetracks have been, at one time or another, registered with The Jockey Club.

Racing colors are selected for many and varied reasons and are often inherited from generation to generation. Some in use today are traceable back over one hundred years.

The oldest set in continuous use in American racing today is the scarlet of Mrs. John A. Morris. Formerly known as "The Barbarity Colors" they were taken by Mr. Francis Morris in the 1860's when he raced the great mares Ruthless,

Remorseless and Relentless, who were known as "The Barbarity Mares". They may have been used even earlier at The Metairie Track in New Orleans in the 1850's. Although not in continuous use, the all maroon colors of Mr. Howell Jackson are probably our oldest, tracing back to General William G. Harding of "Belle Meade", Nashville, Tennessee. The orange of Claiborne, not always in possession of the Hancock family, descend from the Doswells of Virginia.

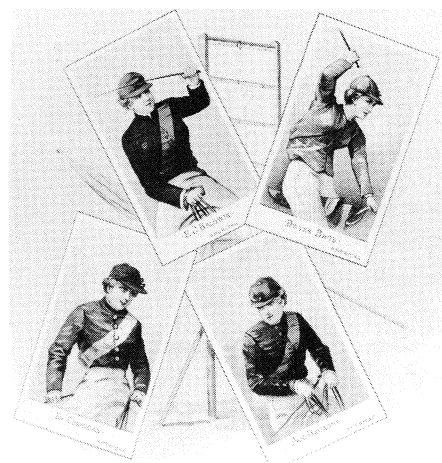
Phil Dwyer, in 1915, presented Price McKinney his (Dwyer's) famous "red, blue sash", after Mr. McKinney stated he was having difficulty choosing a set and expressed an admiration for Dwyer's. Jockey Jimmy McLaughlin, when he began to train, used the "blue, orange sleeves and cap" of the late George Lorillard which were presented to him as a gift from Mrs. Lorillard.

Alfred G. Vanderbilt selected his mother's colors "cerise, white blocks, cerise sleeves, white cap", but he changed the blocks to diamonds. William Woodward's Belair Stud colors were originally "white, scarlet braid, cuffs and cap" before he purchased those of Lord Zetland of Britain, "white, red spots, scarlet cap". However, when his horses raced in England, they were required to use a "black cap".

Samuel D. Riddle's pride in Man o' War was so intense he wanted to change his "black, yellow sash and bars on sleeves" to another combination so none of his other horses would wear the same colors. This was solved by reducing the number of bars on the sleeves from six to five. Marcus Daly, the mining magnate, couldn't resist his Irish birthright. He chose "copper, silver sleeves" and his riders proudly wore an emerald green cap.

The Jockey Club frowns upon the use of colors for advertising purposes. A. C. Burnham, a cheese manufacturer, was prevented from placing a wheel of cheese on his silks; as was Colonel E. O. Pepper, a whiskey distiller, from displaying a bottle of his Keystone whiskey on the back of his silks.

With new owners entering racing every year, the demands upon color and combinations has become acute and it



Racing Colors of the World was published by Allen & Ginter of Richmond, Virginia as advertising for their "Straight Cut Cigarettes and Pet Cigarettes manufactured since 1875." An interesting note is the use of women jockeys to model the silks. Illustrated are the colors of August Belmont, the Dwyer brothers, E.J. Baldwin and Ed Corrigan and other prominent American and European sportsmen.

will be interesting to see how it is resolved. Certainly, not like the ancient Greeks by dyeing the horses.

Yorkshire Ballad

"The bell is ringing for the start:
There's Sim in blue and white
With Heseltine in red, and Job
in lilac, and Cartwright:
There's Holmes in blue and scarlet sleeves,
And now I can descry
The tartan vest and yellow cap
Of Mr. Thomas Lye!"
Anon.
(*Wilkes' Spirit of the Times* — September 29, 1860)

Mr. Burlew, a 'Friend' of the NSL, and contributor of the article on Henry Stull in the December 1985 newsletter, is a collector of racing memorabilia and has done extensive research into the subject. Additional notes from *Raciana* by J. B. Muir, NSL Huth Lonsdale Arundel Collection.

FRIENDS OF NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY

LIFE MEMBERS

Mr. John Alexander
Mr. Arthur W. Arundel
Mr. Gordon Barton
Mrs. J. C. Herbert Bryant
Mr. Frederick Burlew
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Chickering
Mrs. John Kapp Clark
Mr. Stephen Clark, Jr.
Brigadier General and Mrs. J. L. Collins
Mr. Daniel Cox
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Daniels
Mr. Tom Davenport
Mr. and Mrs. David Diebold
Mr. Edward Durell
Mr. Donald F. Eismann
Mrs. Virginia Garrett Ellis
Mrs. Anna Francis
Miss Margaret Gardiner
Mr. Robert Garrett
Mr. Anthony Garvan
Mr. Cary T. Grayson
Mr. Gordon Grayson
Mr. Francis Thornton Greene
Mrs. Helen Kleberg Groves
Mr. Henry W. Hooker, M.F.H.
Mrs. Polly Howard
The Hunt Foundation
Mr. Walter M. Jeffords, Jr., F.H.
Mrs. Walter M. Jeffords, Jr.
Mr. Samuel Lehrman
Mr. Henry W. Lewis
Mr. Alexander Mackay-Smith
Mr. Paul Mellon
Mr. George L. Ohrstrom, Jr.
Mr. Ricard Ohrstrom
Mr. C. G. Rice
Mrs. J. T. Sadler, Jr.
Mrs. W. Mason Shehan
Mr. C. Reed Thomas
Mr. John Barnes Todd
Mr. William R. Tupper
Mrs. Hedda vonGoeben
Mrs. Esther L. Voorhees
Mr. Robert York White
Mr. Orme Wilson, Jr.
Mrs. S. Bryce Wing

SPONSOR MEMBERS

Mr. and Mrs. Harry B. Black
Mrs. Jean Bowman
Mr. William W. Brainard, Jr., M.F.H.
Mr. Robert Chuckrow
Mr. Jim Delmege
Mrs. Floyd Draper
Mr. John Page Elliott
Ms. C. H. Farquhar
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond C. Firestone
Capt. John Fritz
Mr. William Gates
Mr. Ben H. Hardaway, III, M.F.H.
Mr. Gerald L. Hempt
Mr. and Mrs. George Horkan, Jr.
Mrs. Gilbert Humphrey
Mr. Edward Lasker
Group Captain Gerald Pendred
Mr. Shirley Povich
Mr. Milton Ritzenberg
Mr. Howard C. Rogers, II
Mr. Robert M. Seastrom
Mr. A. Martin Simensen, D.V.
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Sogg
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce G. Sundlun
Mr. C. R. Thomas
Mrs. Thomas M. Waller

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

American Connemara Pony Society
Mr. David Beals
Dr. P. H. Birdsall
Mr. Andrew Brown IV
Mr. Joseph DePino
Mr. Edward Duffy
Ms. Meredith Page Etchison
Mrs. Hugh Fenwick
Mr. Louis Finocchio
Mrs. Eve Fout
Mrs. Thomas Furness
Mr. John S. Gilmore
Mr. J. B. Howell
Mr. Edward Howrey
Mr. Clifford Hunt
Mr. Lawrence Illoway
Mr. Gwynne Harrison Jones
Mrs. Rodney Layton
Mr. and Mrs. V. Littauer
Mrs. Stacy Lloyd
Mr. and Mrs. Charles MacVeagh III
Mr. George Masek, M.F.H.
Mr. Richard F. Meyer, M.F.H.
Mr. William Paul Murray, Jr.
Mr. Joseph T. Murtagh
National Museum of Racing

Mr. Parker Nelson
Dr. Richard L. Pearse
Mrs. Cynthia Piper
Mr. Harry Moore Rhett, Jr., M.F.H.
Mr. James Scharnberg
Mrs. Hardie Scott
Mrs. David B. Sharp
Mr. Charles Smith
Mrs. Bette Smock
Mrs. Elizabeth K. Stanley
Dr. Nancy L. Struna
Mr. H. Stewart Treviranus
Mr. Thaddeus Trout
Mr. Stittler Vipond
Mr. William P. Wadsworth, M.F.H.
Mrs. Myrna Walquist
Mr. Geoffrey Way
Judge Leo Whinery
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Whitfield
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wilson

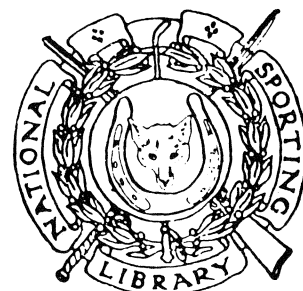
MEMBERS

Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Abeles
Mr. John E. Adessi
Mr. J. A. Allen
Mrs. James B. Allen
American Academy of Equestrian Art
Ms. B. J. Arduis
Mr. Robert Arthur
Captain W. Ashby
Dr. Anne Preston Askew
Mrs. Thomas Atkinson
Mr. E. Albert Berol
Dr. Jack W. Berryman
Mrs. Alfred Bissell
Ms. Robin Bledsoe
Mr. C. B. Boyer, III
Lt. Colonel J. W. Bradbury
Mrs. Dianna Bright
Mrs. K. Gould Brittle
Mr. and Mrs. B. Brown
Mrs. Constance Kinne Bush
Dr. Elizabeth Carmichael
Mr. and Mrs. George Carter
Mrs. James C. Cawood, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. David Childress
Mrs. Leo Cohen
Ms. Barbara Cole
Ms. Nancy Comer
Mr. B. F. Commandeur
Mrs. Kristine Cott
Mrs. Sharon Cregier
Miss Helen Cunningham
Mrs. B. B. DeSuze
Mr. Peter Barry Devers
Mrs. Lynne Dole
Mr. Edward Duffy
Col. & Mrs. Howard Fair
Mr. and Mrs. Humphrey Finney
Mr. Don Frazier
Mr. Nat Glantz
Glenbow Library
Dr. Eugene Guazzo
Mrs. Sherman Haight
Mr. C. M. Harris
Mrs. Elizabeth F. Hintz
Mr. Richard Hooper
Col. and Mrs. John Horner
Mrs. Phelps Hunter
Mr. Alec Jeffrey
Ms. Mary Jenkins
Mr. Edward Johnson
Mr. Pegram Johnson III
Mr. Martin S. Kahn
Mrs. Virginia Kirks
Mr. Melvin Kitzmiller
Mrs. Charlotte Kneeland
Mr. Maximilliam Lammers
Mrs. Sterling Larrabee
Ms. Elizabeth Lawrence
Dr. E. Lawrence
Mr. D. Harcourt Lees, Jr.
Mr. John LeGates
R. & P. Lisas
Mr. J. Rieman McIntosh
Mr. Charles Matheson
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Maultsby
Mr. T. V. Medley
Mrs. Andrew Montgomery
Mrs. Lucia Nash
Ms. Marilyn Newmark
Mrs. Jean O'Higgins
Old Sturbridge Village Library
Mr. Henry O'Phelan
Mrs. Edward Oppenheimer
Miss Mabel Owen
Mr. Meade Palmer
Ms. Nancy Perkins
Miss Susan Powers
Mrs. Lexine Pusey
Mrs. Marion Rabb
Mr. S. W. Rawls, Jr.
Mrs. Judy Richter

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Riemenschneider
Mrs. Edward Robertson
Mrs. Norborne Robinson III
Dr. Joseph Rogers
Ms. Ann Ross
Mrs. Edmund Ross
Mrs. Paul Scott
Ms. Kathleen Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence S. Smith
Mr. Robert Smith, Sr.
Smithsonian Institution Library
Mrs. Dorothy Smithwick
Stampede Park, Calgary, Canada
Mrs. Elizabeth Streeter
Joseph Stuart, D. V. M.
Mr. Phillip Thomas
Mrs. LeRoy Thompson
Mr. David Trapp, Jr.
Mr. R. W. Trollope
Mrs. Maximilliam Tufts
Ms. Susan VanWagoner
Miss Linda Voss
Miss Katharine Walker
Mrs. Stella Walker
Ms. Nancy Wardwell
Mrs. Charles F. Weeden III
Miss Ellen B. Wells
Col. W. W. West III
Mr. James Young

WELCOME NEW FRIENDS

Mr. Robert Chuckrow
Mrs. Anna Francis



OFFICERS — DIRECTORS

Chairman of the Board
Alexander Mackay-Smith

President
George L. Ohrstrom, Jr.

Secretary
George A. Horkan, Jr.

Treasurer
Col. Dale Hogoboom, Jr.

Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
Patricia Boyce

Librarian
Judith Ozment

Directors
Arthur W. Arundel
William W. Brainard, Jr.
John W. Warner

Please enroll me as a member of
THE FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY, INC.
in the class checked below.

My check for _____ dollars is enclosed

- ☐ Life Member\$500.00
☐ Sponsor\$100.00
☐ Sustaining Member\$ 35.00
☐ Member\$ 15.00

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Donations of books as well as cash are acceptable for
membership.

All gifts, both books and cash, are tax deductible.

Make checks payable to: National Sporting Library,
P.O. Box 1335

Middleburg, Virginia 22117